

**State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Section  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

<b>Date:</b>	April 1, 2013	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	Eric McPhee
<b>Applicant PWS Name:</b>	Town of Prospect	<b>Town:</b>	Prospect/Beacon Falls
<b>Project Name:</b>	Route 69, New Haven Road Water Line		
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Federal*		
<b>PWSID:</b>	CT0880011		
<b>Funds:</b>	\$480,000*		

\* Total project cost not to exceed \$872,728. 55% federal cost share. Regional School District is responsible for the remaining 45% of the total cost.

**This assessment is being conducted in conformance to the generic Environmental Classification Document for Connecticut state agencies to determine Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) obligations.**

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to install approximately 2200' of 12" water main from the intersection of Center Street and New Haven Road (Route 69) to 75 New Haven Road to supply the site of the new Region 16 grammar school. Regional School District 16 is comprised of the towns of Beacon Falls and Prospect, CT.

**Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3 Determination of environmental significance (direct/indirect)**

1. Impact on air and water quality or on ambient noise levels
  - a. Air Quality – The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.
  - b. Water Quality - Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed require a permit pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26. The Permitting & Enforcement Division has issued a *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEP-PERD-GP-015) that will cover these discharges. For projects disturbing five or more acres, registration describing the site and the construction activity must be submitted to the Department prior to the initiation of construction. A stormwater pollution control plan, including measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post construction stormwater management, must be prepared. For sites where more than 10 acres will be disturbed, the plan must be submitted to the Department. A goal of 80 percent removal of total suspended solids from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing post-construction stormwater management measures. For construction projects with a total disturbed area between one and five acres, no registration is required as long as the project is reviewed by the town and receives written approval of its erosion and sediment control measures and it adheres to the *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*. If no

review is conducted by the town or written approval is not provided, the permittee must register with the Department. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3018. A copy of the general permit as well as registration forms may be downloaded at: [Construction Stormwater GP](#).

- c. Ambient Noise Levels - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant noise in the immediate area;
2. Impact on a public water supply or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation
    - a. Water Supply - The project is located within the public water supply watershed for Connecticut Water Company's Long Hill Reservoir. In order to be consistent with the *Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005 - 2010*, mitigation measures should be developed to ensure that extension of the water line will not result in intensive development along the route to the grammar school. See Recommendations, below.
    - b. Groundwater - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to neighboring groundwater.
    - c. Flooding - The proposed water main project area is not located within the 100-year flood zone.
    - d. Erosion or Sedimentation - In order to protect wetlands and watercourses on and adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. The *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* prepared by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation in cooperation with DEEP is a recommended source of technical assistance in the selection and design of appropriate control measures. The 2002 revised edition of the Guidelines is available online at: [Erosion Control Guidelines](#).
  3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows – The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Soil Survey depicts a band of Ridgebury, Leicester & Whitman extremely stony soils, a regulated wetland soil associated with a drainage way parallel to, and immediately west of, New Haven Road. It is unknown whether the main will be installed under the roadway or shoulders, with no direct wetland impacts, or beyond previously filled areas. If there are any undeveloped areas within the area to be impacted, it is recommended that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses as defined by section 22a-38 (15) and (16) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), respectively. If the reconnaissance identifies regulated areas, they should be delineated. Any inland wetlands or watercourses at the site are regulated by the local inland wetlands agency, pursuant to section 22a-42 of the CGS. Many local agencies have established setback or buffer areas and require review and approval of activities within these upland areas adjacent to wetlands or watercourses. The local agency should be contacted regarding permit requirements.

Development plans for utilities in urban areas that entail soil excavation should include a protocol for sampling and analysis of potentially contaminated soil. A soil management plan should be developed for the project to deal with soils during construction. The Department's *Guidance for Utility Company Excavation* should be used as a guide in developing the plan. The guidance is available on-line at: [Utility Guidance](#) .

4. Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings - The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
5. Effect on natural communities and upon critical species of animal or plant and their habitats: interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species - Based on the comments from DEEP -Wildlife Division, The Natural Diversity Data Base, maintained by DEEP, contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as endangered, threatened or special concern at the project area. This information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Also, be advised that this is a preliminary review. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEEP for the proposed site. Consultation with the Natural Diversity Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. The extent of investigation by competent biologist(s) of the flora and fauna found at the site would depend on the nature of the existing habitat(s). If field investigations reveal any Federal or State listed species, please contact the DEEP Geologic & Natural History Survey at 860-424-3540.
6. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact - No significant impact expected.
7. Substantial aesthetic or visual effects - Due to the nature and timeframe of the project construction, the project is not expected to cause substantial aesthetic or visual impacts in the area.
8. Inconsistency with the written and/or mapped policies of the statewide Plan of Conservation and Development and such other plans and policies developed or coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management or other agency – This is a federally funded project and not subject to the statewide Plan of Conservation and Development. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection recommends that: “In order to be consistent with the *Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005 - 2010*, mitigation measures should be developed to ensure that extension of the water line will not result in intensive development along the route to the grammar school.” The Department of Public Health recommends that should the school project be approved and the water main installed that provisions be put in place, such as through local zoning, to minimize/restrict any future service connections along the 2200’ water main extension. The water main is located within a public water supply watershed and has been noted by the Town of Prospect as an area that should be protected (see #9, below).
9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans - The Town of Prospect’s 2002 Prospect Plan of Conservation and Development

Update includes as part of its second goal: *“Monitor the potential disposition or reuse of water supply lands and advocate their maintenance as public or utility company lands. Cooperate with land trusts and other advocacy groups to maintain these areas as woodlands.”* Further, the Town of Prospect’s Open Space Plan provides the following as a “secondary priority”:  
*“Southeast Corridor: Route 69 South – This area encompasses parcels along Route 69 from the Center of Town to the Bethany border. Much of this area is located in a Public Water Supply Watershed area and has significant value for open space protection.”*

10. Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people - No significant impact expected.
11. Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other) – The proposed project is not expected to create substantial traffic congestion in the area.
12. A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action - No significant impact expected.
13. The creation of a hazard to human health or safety - The project is not expected to create significant public hazard and safety.
14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources - No significant impact expected.

### **Conclusions:**

Based on the DPH’s environmental assessment of this project which includes comments provided by the DEEP dated March 7, 2013, it has been determined that the proposed installation of approximately 2200’ of 12” water main does not require the preparation of Environmental Impact Evaluation under CEPA.

The DPH will coordinate the project with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Town of Prospect to ensure that all DEEP and DPH recommendations will be implemented during project construction.

### **Recommendations:**

If the water main is to be tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater* (DEP-PERD-GP-011). This general permit applies to all discharges of waters used to test the structural integrity of new or used tanks and pipelines that hold or transfer drinking water, sewage, or natural gas. The general permit contains pH, chlorine, oil and grease, and suspended solids limits which will need to be complied with during the testing and verified through monitoring. Registration is required to be submitted to the Department in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit. A fact sheet, the general permit which includes the registration form, titled Notice of Coverage, and the Application Transmittal form may be downloaded at: [Hydrostatic GP](#)

For the protection of the water supply, the Department of Public Health recommends that low impact development measures are installed and maintained on any property that is developed as a result of the installation of this water main in accordance with the following guidance:

<http://nemo.uconn.edu/publications/LIDPub.pdf> .

The Department of Public Health suggests that Connecticut Water Company, DPH, USEPA, DEEP and the Town of Prospect collaborate to ensure that intensive development does not occur in the public water supply watershed as a result of this water main extension and optimal water quality is maintained for the protection of public health.

For the protection of the water supply, the Department of Public Health recommends that, as a best management practice, pesticides not be used anywhere on the property of the school or any other property developed as a result of the installation of this water main.

Prior to starting the project construction, the following best management practices should be considered:

1. **Construction Maintenance:** No construction should take place before erosion and sedimentation controls are installed. These controls should be properly installed, maintained, inspected regularly, and remain in place until the project construction is completed. During construction and until a vegetative cover is reestablished, the project area should be inspected daily and after rainfall to verify erosion control measures are properly functioning. Any defects on the structure must be immediately repaired.
2. **Emergency Response Plan:** Develop an Emergency Spill Response Plan before construction begins. Spill response equipment should be available on-site at all times along with personnel trained in the proper use of such equipment.
3. **Hazardous Materials Storage:** Hazardous materials should be removed from the site during non-work hours or otherwise stored in a secure area to prevent vandalism. Place covered trashcans and recycling receptacles around the site. Cover and maintain dumpsters. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under a roof or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting. Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on site.
4. **Vehicles and Machinery:** Methods and locations of refueling, servicing, and storage of vehicles and machinery should be addressed and included as notes on the final site plans. All equipment fueling or minor repairs should occur on a fueling pad. Onsite fuel storage for heavy equipment should have containment and be located in a secure area where it will not be vandalized or struck by equipment or vehicles on the job site.
5. **Sanitation:** Portable toilets should be provided on site. The toilets should be properly maintained to ensure that leaks will be prevented.